

in the County, implement the local transit service recommendations of the plan, including the provision of local transit service within the eastern portion of the County and within the economic activity centers along IH 94. It is recommended that the City of Waukesha Transit System Utility continue to provide local fixed route transit service within the City of Waukesha and adjacent areas. It is further recommended that, over time, as the City transit system is increasingly called upon to serve areas beyond the City limits, the City, in conjunction with Waukesha County, undertake a cooperative study to determine the manner in which the transit function can be most cost-efficiently administered, with the transfer of the local transit function from the City to the County among the options to be considered. Finally, it is recommended that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors, and the Regional Planning Commission cooperatively conduct the proposed major investment study regarding commuter-rail service as an alternative to bus-on-freeway or bus-on-busway rapid-transit service in the Milwaukee to Oconomowoc corridor.

PARK AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

The recommended park and open space plan is intended to serve as a guide to meeting outdoor recreation site and facility needs and open space needs in the County through the year 2010 and beyond. The plan is concerned primarily with the provision of County- and State-owned outdoor recreation sites and the protection of primary environmental corridors and other open space lands. The plan recommends the preparation of local park and open space plans by cities, villages, and towns, as appropriate, to guide the provision of local outdoor recreation sites and facilities required to serve residents of their urban areas. The recommended plan consists of an open space preservation element and an outdoor recreation plan element, as described below.

Open Space Preservation

The open space preservation plan element builds upon the recommendations for the preservation of environmentally sensitive lands set forth in the County land use plan. Thus, the open space preservation plan recommends the preservation in essentially natural, open use of primary environmental corridor lands and the preservation, to the extent practicable, of secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas, recognizing that secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas may be incorpo-

rated as drainageways, open space reserves, and parks in developing areas. In addition, the plan recommends the preservation of lands within the project boundaries of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources located outside the planned environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas. A total of 152 square miles of open space, excluding surface water, is recommended for preservation.

In 1995, a total of about 38 square miles, or about 25 percent of the area recommended for preservation, was in public or quasi-public ownership or in compatible outdoor recreation use. The plan recommends that an additional 51 square miles, or about 33 percent of the area proposed to be preserved, be acquired in the public interest. Lands proposed for acquisition include all primary environmental corridors located in planned urban areas; primary environmental corridors in planned rural areas which are proposed to be included in public parks or parkways; and primary environmental corridors, secondary environmental corridors, and isolated natural resource areas in planned urban areas and planned rural areas which encompass sites identified as important natural areas or critical species habitat areas. The plan envisions that the remaining 63 square miles, or about 42 percent of the open space area to be preserved, would be retained in private ownership and be protected through various types of conservancy zoning as recommended in the land use plan.

Outdoor Recreation

The outdoor recreation element of the plan proposes a total of 19 major parks and one special regional outdoor recreation site to meet resource-oriented outdoor recreation needs in the County under build-out conditions. Specifically, the plan proposes the acquisition and development of two new major County parks, one to be located in the City of Brookfield and the other to be located in the Oconomowoc area; additional land acquisition and facility development at six County parks, Fox Bend, Minooka, Monches, Mukwonago, Retzer Nature Center, and Ryan; and additional facility development at six County parks, Fox River, Menomonee, Muskego, Naga-Waukee, Nashotah, and Wanaki. Most noteworthy among the additional recreational facilities proposed at the major County parks are the proposed development of a swimming beach at Fox Brook park and the development of 18-hole, regulation golf courses at Minooka and Mukwonago Parks and the proposed Oconomowoc-area park. The plan further envisions maintenance of three major parks, Lapham Peak, Ottawa Lake Recreation Area and

Pine Woods Campground, by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; maintenance of the special regional outdoor recreation site, Old World Wisconsin, by the Department and by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin; and the maintenance of two other major parks, Wirth and New Berlin Hills Golf Course, by the City of Brookfield and City of New Berlin, respectively.

The plan also recommends the provision of a 200-mile system of recreation trails within the County, providing opportunities for such activities as bicycling, hiking, nature study, and cross-country skiing. Of the recommended trail system, about 146 miles, or about 73 percent, would be provided by Waukesha County and about 54 miles, or 27 percent, by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Thirty-six miles of the recommended County trail system and 45 miles of the recommended State trail system were constructed by 1996.

The plan recommends the development of access facilities to provide the public with opportunities for water-related recreation activities such as motor boating, waterskiing, fishing, and canoeing on major lakes and rivers in the County. The plan recommends that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquire land for, and develop, public boat access sites on Crooked Lake, Moose Lake, North Lake, Spring Lake, Upper Nashotah Lake, and Waterville Pond; develop a boat-access facility on State-owned land on Hunters Lake and on Lake Keesus; provide additional car-trailer parking facilities at Beaver Lake and Okauchee Lake; and consider the provision of an access site on Lower Nashotah Lake. The plan further recommends that the Department of Natural Resources provide a Fox River canoe-access site at the Vernon Marsh Wildlife Area and that Waukesha County provide canoe-access sites along the Fox River at Fox Bend and Fox River parks.

Park and Open Space Plan Implementation

Responsibility for implementation of the park and open space plan rests primarily with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Waukesha County. Under the plan, the Department of Natural Resources would be responsible for the maintenance of existing State-owned recreation and open space sites in the County, the acquisition of certain lands for resource preservation purposes, the acquisition and development of portions of the proposed area-wide recreational trail system in the County, and the acquisition and development of boat and canoe access sites. Total land acquisition and facility

development costs for the Department under the plan buildout conditions approximate \$23.9 million.

Under the plan, Waukesha County would be responsible for the acquisition and development of major parks, the acquisition of open space lands for resource preservation purposes, the acquisition and development of portions of the proposed area-wide recreational trail system in the County, and the provision of canoe access sites along the Fox River. Total acquisition and facility development costs for the County under the plan buildout conditions approximate \$52.8 million. A substantial portion of this total cost may be offset by State and Federal recreation and open space grant program funds, land dedications, donations, and revenues generated by existing parks and recreational facilities.

Under the plan, part of the responsibility for open space acquisition is assigned to local units of government and nonprofit conservation organizations in accordance with previously adopted local plans. In addition, local government acquisition of certain open space sites which, based upon their small size, are more properly considered to be of local, rather than countywide, significance is also recommended. Total open space acquisition costs for local units of government under the plan buildout conditions approximate \$28.8 million. Open space acquisition costs for nonprofit conservation organizations approximate \$5.2 million. These costs may also be offset by State and Federal recreation and open space grant program funds.

Park and open space acquisition and development recommended to be undertaken by Waukesha County through the year 2010 would approximate \$25 million. Spread over 15 years, from 1996 through the year 2010, the average annual capital outlay required by the County would approximate \$1.67 million. This compares to the average annual capital outlay of \$1.69 million designated for park and open space acquisition and development for the years 1996 through 2000 in the current County capital improvement program.

PLAN ADOPTION

The preparation of the Waukesha County development plan was undertaken in accordance with Section 59.97(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes which authorizes and governs the preparation of such plans. Section 59.97(3) specifies the territory which may be included in a county development plan, indicates the permissible scope and content of such